



## **bulrush**

*Scirpus spp.*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

### **Features**

Bulrushes are perennial herbs with round or triangular stems. Some species grow up to 10 feet tall. Fifteen species of bulrush are found in Iowa. The leaves are usually long and narrow. The flowers are small and grow in clusters. The fruits are single, dry, and usually brown. The sharp edges of some bulrushes can cut through skin.

### **Natural History**

Bulrushes grow around lakes, ponds, streams, marshes, fens, and roadside ditches. They flower from May through September.

### **Habitats**

bottomland forests; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; wet prairies and fens; Mississippi River; Missouri River

### **Iowa Status**

common; native

### **Iowa Range**

statewide

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.